



Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2007

File No. 449

Senate Bill No. 1416

Senate, April 11, 2007

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. GAFFEY of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION DURING A PANDEMIC OR OTHER CRISIS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The Department of Education, in
2 consultation with Departments of Public Health, Information
3 Technology and Public Utility Control, shall study and make
4 recommendations for developing a plan to provide instruction and
5 other educational services on a remote basis to students in grades
6 kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, in the event of school closings or
7 mass student or teacher absences due to a pandemic or other crisis in
8 the state. The study shall:

9 (1) Assess how the state's current emergency plans address
10 instructional issues, including the role of state and local education
11 officials in those plans;

12 (2) Analyze alternative systems for delivering remote instruction to
13 students outside of school facilities, such as through the Internet or

14 broadcast or cable television, along with the technical and
15 infrastructure requirements for each delivery system;

16 (3) Evaluate the educational issues raised by remote instruction,
17 including the type and duration of the instruction, the state and local
18 agencies and educational personnel involved, the curriculum to be
19 used, the suitability of existing public or private on-line or broadcast
20 educational programs, how students and teachers would interact and
21 how students' work would be evaluated; and

22 (4) Estimate the cost of providing remote instruction during a
23 pandemic or other crisis and identify sources of funding for planning
24 for and delivering such services.

25 (b) Not later than February 6, 2008, the Department of Education
26 shall, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
27 statutes, report its findings in accordance with the provisions of
28 subsection (a) of this section and any recommendations for legislation
29 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
30 cognizance of matters relating to education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2007	New section

ED *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The requirements of the bill can be carried out by the State Department of Education within existing resources.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 1416*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION DURING A PANDEMIC OR OTHER CRISIS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the State Department of Education (SDE), in consultation with the departments of Public Health, Information Technology, and Public Utility Control, to study and make recommendations on a plan for providing elementary and secondary instruction on a remote basis if a pandemic or other crisis in the state closes schools or causes mass teacher or student absences. The SDE must report its findings to the Education Committee by February 6, 2008.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

REQUIRED STUDY AREAS

The SDE's study must assess and analyze:

1. how current emergency plans address instruction, including what roles they assign to state and local education officials;
2. systems for delivering remote instruction to students who cannot come to school, including through television or over the Internet;
3. technical and infrastructure requirements for providing remote instruction;
4. educational issues, including the curriculum and duration of remote instruction, the state and local personnel and agencies involved, how students and teachers can interact, and methods for evaluating student work;

5. whether existing online or broadcast educational programs would be suitable for use in an emergency; and
6. the cost of, and funding sources for, implementing a remote instruction plan.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 30 Nay 0 (03/26/2007)